



Frederick Richard Butler M.M.

Frederick Richard Butler was born in Gayton, Northamptonshire in 1896. He was baptized on 20th December 1896. His father Richard Butler was from Farthinghoe, his mother Mary Ann Butler (nee Botterill) from Gayton. The couple were married in 1896.

The Family

In 1901 the family were living in Kettering. Richard was employed as a pig iron labourer. The couple had four children, Dorothy, Frederick Richard, Alice & William Thomas.

Alice who was born in 1899 died during 1901.

In 1911 the family were still in Kettering living in Wood Street. Richard was employed as a furnace man. Dorothy was a general servant, Frederick Richard was a skiver in a shoe factory, William Thomas was still at school. Frederick's cousin Beatrice Botterill was living with the family.

Sometime after 1911 the family relocated to Corby.

Military Service

Frederick Butler originally enlisted in Kettering into the Northamptonshire Regiment (22441), but was later transferred to the 10th (Service) Battalion (Battersea), The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment (G/10189).

Given his service number for the Northamptonshire Regiment it is possible he enlisted October/November 1915.

The 10th Battalion was formed on 3rd June 1915 and joined 124th Brigade of the 41st Division. The Battalion mobilised and landed in Le Havre on 6th May 1916.

Lance Corporal Frederick Butler was awarded the Military Medal. The London Gazette of 28th September 1917 records the award although no details of the circumstances leading to the award are given.

Lance Corporal Butler was killed in action during the Second Battle of Bapaume (22nd-26th March 1918). The date of his death is recorded as 26th March 1918.

Lance Corporal Frederick Butler MM is remembered on the Arras Memorial and the Corby War Memorial.



The French handed over Arras to Commonwealth forces in the spring of 1916 and the system of tunnels upon which the town is built were used and developed in preparation for the major offensive planned for April 1917.

The Commonwealth section of the Faubourg D'Amiens Cemetery was begun in March 1916, behind the French military cemetery established earlier. It continued to be used by field ambulances and fighting units until November 1918.

The cemetery was enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields and from two smaller cemeteries in the vicinity.

The cemetery contains over 2,650 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 10 of which are unidentified. The graves in the French military cemetery were removed after the war to other burial grounds and the land they had occupied was used for the construction of the Arras Memorial and Arras Flying Services Memorial.

The adjacent Arras Memorial commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7 August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918. Canadian and Australian servicemen killed in these operations are commemorated by memorials at Vimy and Villers-Bretonneux. A separate memorial remembers those killed in the Battle of Cambrai in 1917.

The adjacent Arras Flying Services Memorial commemorates almost 1,000 airmen of the Royal Naval Air Service, the Royal Flying Corps, and the Royal Air Force, either by attachment from other arms of the forces of the Commonwealth or by original enlistment, who were killed on the whole Western Front and who have no known grave.

During the Second World War, Arras was occupied by United Kingdom forces headquarters until the town was evacuated on 23 May 1940. Arras then remained in German hands until retaken by Commonwealth and Free French forces on 1 September 1944. The 1939-1945 War burials number 8 and comprise 3 soldiers and 4 airmen from the United Kingdom and 1 entirely unidentified casualty. Located between the 2 special memorials of the 1914-1918 War is the special memorial commemorating an officer of the United States Army Air Force, who died during the 1939-1945 War. This special memorial, is inscribed with the words "Believed to be buried in this cemetery". In addition, there are 30 war graves of other nationalities, most of them German.



Both cemetery and memorial were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, with sculpture by Sir William Reid Dick. The memorial was unveiled by Lord Trenchard, Marshal of the Royal Air Force on the 31 July 1932

Reference

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Lest We Forget

Frederick Butler M.M.
of The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment

d. 26th March 1918

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